



## Statement by Parish President Mike Yenni

March 1, 2019

“My decision on whether to seek re-election **will not** be based on a Henry Shane poll. Henry’s polling in the past had Danny Martiny beating Dominick Impastato, Maria DeFrancesch beating Ben Zahn, and Julie Stokes being elected Secretary of State. None of that happened, and his polling isn’t credible. My decision will be made by me after discussing the matter with my wife, family, key staff members and my trusted political advisor.

I am not ready to declare whether I will or will not run again. At this time, I am solely committed to completing the projects that I have started as Parish President. I am pleased that every accurate poll indicates that our citizens and voters are very satisfied with our progress in Jefferson Parish, and I have earned strong scores from our public on how we are managing the business of the parish.

If I believe that voters are willing to support me again based on how I have managed our public policy, professionally guided the office of President, and strategically garnered hundreds of millions of dollars in improvements for Jefferson, then I will likely seek re-election. If I believe that voters will separate my effective public service from my personal imperfection, then I will run.

I recognize clearly the kind of election that will be ahead of me. I realize that a cavalcade of political opportunists and opponents will use the cloak of a campaign to air their own haughty, self-righteous views while attacking me. I am not deterred by the stones they will throw from their own glass houses. My lapse in

judgement in my personal life was foolish, careless, quite uncharacteristic of me, and it was then overtly sensationalized by over-hyped reporting. I apologized to my family and to the people of Jefferson Parish who I represent. My family and I are closer and stronger than ever, and I can only hope that the public is willing to forgive me as well.

Drew, it should be noted that I never let the grossly inaccurate, opinion reporting of one biased journalist stop me from achieving success-after-success for our parish. I never let the echo-chamber of political wannabes and antagonists drown out my agenda for progress. Of course, I was personally disappointed when politician after politician hopped on a bandwagon to ask me to resign. But then again bandwagon effects aren't a phenomenon, they are to be expected in a world of sanctimonious political grandstanding.

No, Drew, I will either run again with a bold agenda for Jefferson Parish's continued growth and unprecedented vision projects or I will not run and use the end of my term to lobby for dramatic changes to our ordinances and structure that are long overdue. Either way, the polling of a campaign contributor who wants so badly to be a political insider will never guide my decision-making."